5. You next refer to *pakuthi* officers and want them to be permanently stationed in each village as in the case of Village Munsiffs in British India. As you must know, the system of village life known in British India does not exist in Travancore except in one or two localities. The great bulk of the country does not know what village life is. Consequently, the lesser should yield to the requirements of the greater. Hence the *pakuthi* administration in Nanjinad should be as elsewhere.

MEMBER: My last point (sixth point) has not been answered.

DEWAN: All the points that have not been specifically answered will be noted for consideration.

94. Needs of the Nagercoil Municipality.

MR. S. MANIKKAM ADAVIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) said that Nagercoil town was rapidly growing in importance, but that the comparatively young Municipality was not able to cope with the increasing demands of the growing town without the aid of the Government. The stopping of the Government grant to that Municipality at this juncture was very discouraging. The Municipality was doing very good work in the matter of public works, etc., and unless the Government were prepared to mete out an equitable treatment, the Municipality would not be in a position to take up such works.

The first and foremost need of the town was good drinking water. The people had been praying for this for the last thirty-five years and that had also been a subject represented at the 7th, 9th, 11th, 16th and 17th sessions of the Assembly, and in spite of the recommendations of Chief Engineer Mr. Jacob and Executive Engineer Mr. Horsely, the Government had been apathetic in the matter and this had sorely distressed the minds of the people. An attempt in this direction was made in the time of Dewan Mr. Raghaviah, but it proved futile. A sum of Rs. 1,723 had to be spent by the Municipality towards the cost of investigation and there the matter ended. For want of good drinking water, the people were falling a prey to such diseases as typhoid fever and cholera. The Government should at once do what is necessary in the matter or entrust the Municipality with the necessary funds for carrying out any scheme of water supply.

As a result of the policy followed by the Government some time back of auctioning away tank-beds and other lands suitable for grazing cattle, the cattle in Nagercoil town could not thrive. It was therefore necessary that, in future, tank-beds, tanks which were silted up, etc., should not be sold away. The Municipal Council went into the question in 1924 and as a result of the investigation made by a sub-committee, the Government were approached with certain suggestions by means of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Council held on the 9th April 1924. But no reply had been received from the Government. As suggested in that communication, if only the Government would transfer to the Municipality the lands mentioned therein, the Municipal Council would convert them into excellent pastures. The Member also suggested the transfer of the Pillayarkulam, Chayakkarankulam, Kantachankulam, Kommanta Ammankovilkulam, Nandavanam *poramboke*, etc., to the Municipality for the purpose of opening cattle yards for stall feeding.

In regard to the milk supply for Nagercoil, the Member suggested that the Esantimangalam dairy farm might be expanded so as to meet the demands of the town and that a similar farm might be opened somewhere near Nagercoil.

Nagercoil town was getting very congested and a public park was of the utmost importance. The open ground to the east of the Ramavarmapuram Palace was a suitable site for a park. This was the property of the Yadavar Village Trust. The Government should move in the matter and acquire the site for the use of the public.

A Public Library as in Trivandrum might be opened in Nagercoil also.

Nagercoil was very much in need of a maternity hospital. At least, a lady doctor should be appointed to the Nagercoil District Hospital and a labour and a lying-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

in-ward opened. There was a communication in the matter from the Municipal Council in 1924 and the Government made certain promises in their letter D. Dis. No. 661 of 21/Genl., but nothing was done in the matter. The matter was of very great importance and should therefore be looked into urgently.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Manikkam Adaviyar, a water supply scheme for Nagercoil has been formulated, and I understand the Municipality will shortly submit its proposals for sanction, and I hope it will become an accomplished fact before long.

2. Then you touch upon the subject of grazing grounds. I am afraid I cannot do anything more than invite your attention to my reply to Mr. Kumaravelu Panikkar.

3. In the matter of a dairy farm, public park and public library, these are all matters to be taken up by the Municipality as they strictly form part of municipal activities.

4. On the subject of a woman doctor, maternity hospital or otherwise providing medical aid for women, I may inform you that a new lying-in ward has been opened in the District Hospital at Nagercoil. In the aided institutions—the Neyoor and the Catherine Booth Hospitals—excellent opportunity and ample facilities are available to women at Nagercoil for seeking medical aid. The Administrative Board, Medical Services, has carefully considered the question of a separate women's hospital for Nagercoil, and has come to the conclusion that, in view of the existence of the said two institutions, a separate maternity hospital for that place is not imperative.

95. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. KANAKKU TAMPI MARTANDAN PADMANABHAN (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group I*) said that the absence of a Lower Grade English School at Kulasekharam was a great inconvenience as the nearest school was at Tuckalai eight miles away and that at Kuzhithura ten miles. The provision made for the compulsory teaching of English in the Vernacular Middle School at Tiruvattar did not meet the needs, inasmuch as even people who wished to undergo an English school education were obliged to spend three years in a Vernacular school, to pass the difficult public examination, *viz.*, the Vernacular School Leaving Certificate examination, and then to begin again from Form II. If it was not possible to open a departmental school, permission might be granted to Mr. Paramesvara Kurup to open a grant-in-aid school.

Departmental primary schools in the *pakuthies* of Mekkod, Kappiyara and Kotanallur should be opened immediately. The additional accommodation required in the Vernacular Girls' School at Padmanabhapuram, one of the oldest institutions in the State, should be provided at an early opportunity. Though primary education is said to be free, the people are at immense sacrifice putting up the necessary buildings in all places. If some reduction could be made in the expenditure now incurred on palatial buildings for higher education, it would be possible to put up the buildings and start the primary schools from the beginning of the school year 1926-27.

Kalkulam was an industrial taluk and a beginning should therefore be made in the matter of vocational training by opening an industrial school at Tuckalai. The most skilled weavers in the State belonged to Eraniel and Tuckalai, and Villikiri had long been famous for its leather works. To Tiruvitamkod belonged some of the best smiths in the State.

The importance of encouraging the study of Sanskrit was eloquently urged by Mr. K. S. Dharmaraja Aiyar, Member, Municipal Council, Alleppey. A Sanskrit School should be established at Tuckalai also.

The Members from Central and North Travancore, who referred to the disproportionately high expenditure on irrigation and communications in South Travancore, did not probably know that land tax in Nanjinad was as high as Rs. 25 per acre and the heaviest in the State, while in the Quilon Division the tax was only Rs. 2 or 3 per acre, and in the Kottayam Division as low as Re. 1 per acre. The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly